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210203Z Jul 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 003075

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DEPT PASS TO AIT/W
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEGAPORTS TEAM GETS POSITIVE RECEPTION IN
TAIWAN

Summary

1. Taiwan officials expressed strong support for the Megaports Program during the visit of U.S. Department of Energy officials William Kilmartin and Jeffrey Miller. Kilmartin and Miller identified no major obstacles to implementing the program in the Port of Kaohsiung. AIT/T passed a draft AIT-TECRO Memorandum of Understanding to the Executive Yuan Counter-terrorism Office (EY CTO) and TECRO. Kilmartin and Miller indicated that DOE could proceed with a technical site survey before an MOU is signed. AIT/T will follow-up with EY CTO to get Taiwan comments on the MOU and to secure concurrence and possible dates for a technical site survey. End summary.

Taipei Officials Express Strong Support

2. U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Megaports Program Manager William Kilmartin and Asia Regional Manager Jeffrey Miller traveled to Taiwan July 13-15 to brief Taiwan officials on the Megaports Program and assess the potential for implementing the program at the Port of Kaohsiung. On July 15, they briefed more than 30 Taiwan officials from 14 different agencies, including the Executive Yuan Counter-terrorism Office (EY CTO), Directorate General of Customs (DGC), Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC), Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Justice and National Police Administration. EY CTO Director Kuo Lin-wu hosted a dinner for the visitors, which included Director General of Customs Yu Shaw-wu, AEC Department of Nuclear Technology Deputy Director Mike Hsu (Hsu Ming-te), and MOTC Department of Navigation and Aviation Senior Specialist Li Juel-der. While in Taipei, Kilmartin and Miller also paid separate courtesy calls on Li at MOTC and on DGC Department of Investigation officials.

3. In the group briefing, Taiwan officials were interested and asked many questions. The questions focused on which Taiwan agency should implement the program, costs Taiwan would have to incur, response procedures, the impact on port operations, and the legal authority for conducting passive searches using Megaports equipment. None of the questions raised major obstacles to implementing Megaports in Taiwan. During the Dinner hosted by EY CTO Director Guo, he and Customs DG Yu both expressed strong support for the program. MOTC Senior Specialist Li separately expressed the support of his Ministry.

Kaohsiung, No Major Obstacles to Implementation

4. In Kaohsiung, Kilmartin and Miller toured the harbor facilities and met with Kaohsiung Harbor Bureau and Kaohsiung Customs Office officials. Local officials also expressed strong support for the program. Kilmartin and Miller identified no major obstacles to installation after viewing operations in the harbor. The high volume of container transshipment in Kaohsiung will present some challenges to scanning a high percentage of traffic that passes through the harbor. However, Kilmartin and Miller estimate that the program may be able to scan up to 25 percent of transshipped containers. They were impressed by Kaohsiung's security procedures, and said it was among the best they had seen worldwide. They also indicated that the level of automation at port entrances would facilitate integration of the Megaports Program into existing port procedures. They advised that DOE generally budgets USD 15 million per port for implementation of the Megaports Initiative, and based upon observations made during the tour of Kaohsiung, Kilmartin and Miller advised that equipment could

likely be installed there for about that amount.

Next Steps

15. During the visit, AIT passed a draft AIT-TECRO memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the Megaports Program to EY CTO and TECRO. EY CTO's Guo said his office would distribute the MOU to other relevant Taiwan agencies. TECRO passed it to MOFA. Guo indicated that because of the number of agencies involved and because an implementing agency has still not been identified by Taiwan, it may take some time to provide comments on the MOU. AIT/T will follow up with EY CTO to obtain Taiwan comments on the draft as quickly as possible.

16. Kilmartin and Miller indicated that DOE could proceed with a technical site survey to begin work on an installation design for the radiation detectors even before an MOU is signed. They suggested late August for a visit. AIT/T will secure from EY CTO concurrence to proceed with a technical site survey and possible dates.

17. DOE Jeffrey Miller cleared this message.

PAAL